



Bomborella

Artist statement, Vera Moller



The new sculpture Bomborella is a fictional coral species. I think of it as a hypothetical specimen, an imaginary marine life form yet to be discovered. Having originally studied Biology, Microbiology, and Freshwater ecology at German Universities over twenty years ago, I have in recent years become increasingly interested in the Great Barrier Reef. The future, as well as the natural and cultural history of this amazing and vast environment has become a significant inspiration and conceptual focus in my practice as an artist.

Existing corals and other marine invertebrates have served as a point of reference for the construction of my sculptural forms. The hybrid colour pattern is invented, yet it is not dissimilar to the those vibrant visual effects that can be observed in the Great Barrier Reef during the period of coral spawning.

In the last 200 years, from a European perspective, our views of the Great Barrier Reef have undergone a significant transformation, and these shifting perceptions have been evidenced in cultural representations of that environment.

The GBR has made the extraordinary transition from the exotic and dangerous 'Labyrinth' of Captain Cook, to a protected Natural World Heritage Site, tourist destination and scientific treasure trove. It is indeed a site where ecological, environmental, scientific, political, economic, social, ethical and philosophical issues are inextricably intertwined.

The Reefs' extraordinary life forms, their intricate structures and monumental formations, the complexity of their spaces and scintillating colours, and their combined intelligences and biological processes have augmented perceptions of 'otherworldliness'.

From a scientific perspective a range of diverse species living in this natural environment are yet to be discovered. The dramatic effects of coral bleaching events in recent years have been identified by experts as one of the detrimental outcomes of biological processes set into motion by the global warming phenomenon. The vast reef and island territory is equally under threat from localized incidents of water pollution, the pressures of commercial fishing and the impact of international shipping traffic and tourism.

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